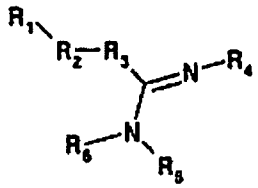
AMENDMENTS TO AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

Kindly amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula I:



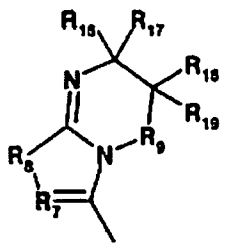
I

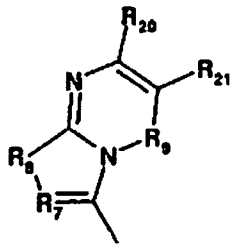
,

wherein

R_1 is a residue of formula (b) or (c)

(b) (c)





;

R_2 is $-(CR_{22}R_{23})_{1-3}-$ or -C(O)-;

each of R_3 and R_8 is S;

each of R_4 and R_5, independently, is optionally R_{25}-substituted C_3-C_{12}-cycloalkyl, C_1-C_{12}-alkyl or saturated C_{8-12}-polycyclic residue; or optionally R_{26}- and/or R_{27}-substituted aryl, arylC_{1-4}-alkyl or heteroaryl;

R_6 is H; C_1-C_6-alkyl; C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl; or optionally R_{26}- and/or R_{27}-substituted aryl, arylC_{1-4}-alkyl or heteroaryl;

R_7 is CR_{28};

R_9 is a direct bond;

each of R_{16}, R_{17}, R_{18}, R_{19}, R_{20}, R_{21}, R_{22}, R_{23} and R_{28}, independently, is H; F; Cl; Br; C_1-C_6-alkyl; C_2-C_6-alkoxyalkyl; C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl; C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl; optionally R_{26}- and/or R_{27}-substituted aryl or heteroaryl; $CONR_{29}R_{30}$; $COOR_{29}$; CN; NO_2; or OR_{31};

each of R_{29} and R_{30}, independently, is H; C_1-C_6-alkyl; C_2-C_6-alkoxyalkyl; C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl; or optionally R_{26}- and/or R_{27}-substituted aryl, arylC_{1-4}-alkyl or heteroaryl;

R_{25} represents 1-to-4 substituents each, independently, H; F; Cl; Br; C_1-C_6-alkyl; C_2-C_6-alkoxyalkyl; C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl; C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl; optionally R_{26}- and/or R_{27}-substituted aryl or heteroaryl; $CONR_{29}R_{30}$; $COOR_{29}$; CN; NO_2; or OR_{31};

R_{26} represents 1-to-4 substituents each, independently, selected from C_1-C_6-alkyl; C_1-C_6-hydroxyalkyl; C_2-C_6-alkoxyalkyl; C_1-C_6-halogenoalkyl; C_3-C_6-cycloalkyl; C_2-C_6-alkenyl; C_3-C_6-cycloalkenyl; C_2-C_6-alkynyl; aryl; heteroaryl; heteroaryl N-oxide; F; Cl; Br; I; OH; OR_4; $CONH_2$; $CONHR_4$; $CONR_4R_4$; $OC(O)R_4$; $OC(O)OR_4$; $OC(O)NHR_4$; $OC(O)NR_4R_4$; OSO_2R_4; COOH; $COOR_4$; CF_3; CHF_2; CH_2F; CN; NO_2; NH_2; NHR_4; NR_4R_4 ; $NHC(O)R_4$; $NR_4C(O)R_4$; $NHC(O)NHR_4$; $NHC(O)NH_2$; $NR_4C(O)NHR_4$; $NR_4C(O)NR_4R_4$; $NHC(O)OR_4$; $NR_4C(O)OR_4$; $NHSO_2R_4$; $N(SO_2R_4)_2$; $NR_4SO_2R_4$; SR_4; $S(O)R_4$; SO_2R_4; $Si(CH_3)_3$ and $B(OC(CH_3)_2)_2$;

R_{27} represents two adjacent substituents which form an annulated 4-7-membered nonaromatic ring optionally containing up to two heteroatoms selected, independently, from N, O and S;

R_{31} is C_1-C_6-alkyl; C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl; optionally R_{26}- and/or R_{27}-substituted aryl, arylC_{1-4}-alkyl or heteroaryl; or CF_3;

or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, which is selected from 1,3-dicyclohexyl-2-(5,6-dihydro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1-cyclohexyl-3-cyclopentyl-2-(5,6-dihydro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1-cycloheptyl-3-cyclohexyl-2-(5,6dihydro-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1,3-dicycloheptyl-2-(5,6-dihydroimidazo[2,1-

b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1-cyclohexyl-3-cyclooctyl-2-(5,6-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1,3-dicyclohexyl-2-(6,6-dimethyl-5,6-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea, 1,3-dicyclooctyl-2-(5,6-dihydro[[-]]imidazo[2,1b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea and 1,3-dicycloheptyl-2-(6,6-dimethyl-5,6-dihydroimidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-3-ylmethyl)-isothiourea.

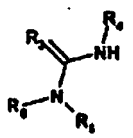
3. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 in free form or in a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt form and a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier ~~therefor~~ thereof.

4. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) A method for prevention or treatment of disorders or diseases mediated by interactions between chemokine receptors, acute or chronic transplant rejection, inflammatory diseases, autoimmune diseases or proliferative diseases comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically-effective amount of the compound of Claim 1.

5. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) A method for prevention or treatment of tumor invasiveness, symptoms associated with tumor growth, metastatic spread of tumours, tumor-associated angiogenesis or growth of micrometastases comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically-effective amount of the compound of Claim 1.

6. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) A method for prevention or treatment of an infectious disease comprising administering to a subject in need thereof a therapeutically-effective amount of the compound of Claim 1.

7. (Withdrawn subject to rejoinder) A process for preparing a compound of formula I according to Claim 1 comprising reacting a compound of formula II



II

with a compound of formula III

III

wherein R_1 to R_6 are as defined in Claim 1, and R_{32} is a leaving group; and optionally converting the resultant compound of formula I obtained in free form to a salt form
or *vice versa*.

8. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) A pharmaceutical combination comprising a compound according to Claim 1 in free form or in a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt form and a further agent selected from immunosuppressive, immunomodulating, anti-inflammatory, antiproliferative, antineoplatic, chemotherapeutic, anti-infective, anti-viral, and antibiotic agents, and agents for the treatment of acute myeloid leukemia.

9. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) The pharmaceutical combination according to Claim 8 comprising an antiretroviral agent.

10. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) A method of preventing or combating an infectious disease in a subject comprising administering to that subject a pharmaceutical combination according to Claim 9.

11. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) A method of treatment or prevention of any of the following conditions:

i) disorders or diseases mediated by interactions between chemokine

receptors,

ii) acute or chronic transplant rejections,

iii) inflammatory or autoimmune diseases,

iv) proliferative diseases,

v) symptoms associated with tumor invasiveness or tumor growth,

vi) metastatic spreads of tumours, tumor-associated angiogenesis and growths of micrometastases,

vii) an infectious disease,

comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1, or a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt thereof, or a pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to Claim 1 in free form or in a pharmaceutically-acceptable salt form in association with a pharmaceutically-acceptable diluent or carrier therefor.

12. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) The method of Claim 6, wherein said infectious disease is a viral infection.

13. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) The method of Claim 12, wherein said viral infection is AIDS.

14. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) The method of Claim 11, wherein the infectious disease is a viral infection.

15. (Withdrawn by the Examiner) The method of Claim 14, wherein said viral infection is AIDS.

16. (Withdrawn) The pharmaceutical combination according to Claim 9, wherein the antiretroviral agent is an anti-HIV agent.

17. (Withdrawn) The method according to Claim 10, wherein the infectious disease is a viral infection or progression of AIDS.